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13 May 1956

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Copy No. 103

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 43

NO CHANGE IN CLASS

11 DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2007

AUTH: HR 70-2

DATE 12-26-77

REVIEWER: 

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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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1. TITO STATES VIEWS TO FRENCH LEADERS

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Yugoslav president Tito reiterated to French government leaders in Paris his view that a real change is now taking place in the USSR. In reporting

this to the American embassy, the director of political and economic affairs in the French Foreign Ministry, Roland de Margerie, said he was considerably impressed by the strong anti-Soviet feeling of Tito's party, particularly among the military men, but also including Foreign Minister Popovic.

Tito said he believed the Soviet developments constitute a completely irreversible trend despite the fact that incidents may occur which might be interpreted as a backsliding toward Stalinism. He said the evolution would take a long time since the Soviet bureaucracy is still filled with Stalinists. Tito cautioned against any Western actions toward the Satellites that would either alarm the Soviet leaders or incite "foolish actions" in the Satellites, since in either case the USSR would again tighten the grip it now seems to be relaxing.

French premier Mollet responded to these views cautiously, saying that France was following the Soviet developments with interest, but not too much optimism.

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2. BRITAIN REPORTEDLY TO PROCEED WITH DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR CYPRUS

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The British colonial secretary probably will announce soon that the government intends to proceed with the drafting of a constitution for Cyprus, according to information received by the American consulate at Nicosia.

Present plans call for the appointment of a commission which would invite expressions of views in Cyprus and elsewhere. London will make clear, however, that this step implies no abandonment of its sovereignty over Cyprus, nor an attempt to establish a constitution before order is restored.

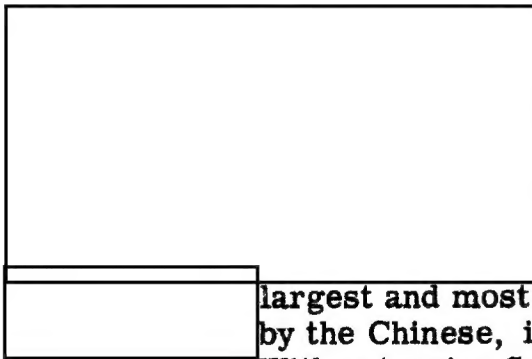
Comment

This step is presumably to be taken at the suggestion of Governor Harding on Cyprus, who has felt that his efforts to restore order would be aided by an attempt to dispel the Cypriot suspicion of Britain left by the negotiations with Archbishop Makarios.

Despite a growing belief on the part of some British officials, including Foreign Secretary Lloyd, that Britain's present approach to the Cyprus problem has no chance of success, the prime minister and a majority of the cabinet apparently remain convinced that any alternatives must inevitably lead to the loss of Britain's vital strategic position on the island.

3. FIRST DESTROYER LAUNCHED AT SHANGHAI

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[redacted] a
destroyer of the 1,500-ton, 300-foot,
Soviet Riga class was launched at the
Hutung shipyard in Shanghai on 28 April.
Construction of this destroyer, the

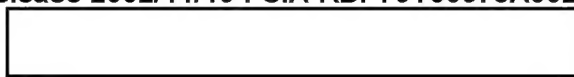
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largest and most modern type of naval vessel to be built
by the Chinese, is believed to have started last summer.
With extensive Soviet assistance, the Chinese, in their
first effort, apparently have matched timetables of Soviet
yards, which have required about nine months from the
beginning of construction to launching of this type of ship.
Fitting out and shakedown trials, probably requiring nine
to 12 months, will be necessary before the vessel is ready
for delivery to the fleet.

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At least one other ship, believed also
to be a Riga, is well along in construction at the Hutung
yard. Shanghai naval shipbuilding, which includes a sub-
marine program, is being carried out under the supervi-
sion of large numbers of Soviet advisers. Machinery and
electronic equipment for the vessels are supplied by the
USSR.

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5. CZECH CHARGES AGAINST SLANSKY OF TITOISM TERMED "ILLEGAL"

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Czech premier Siroky, in a speech at a meeting of the Slovak Communist Party on 10-11 May, admitted the "illegality" of the anti-Yugoslav aspects of the trial in which Slansky was charged

with Titoism. He said these charges were based on "documents faked by the Beria gang." Siroky, however, reiterated that "Slansky and his clique" had been guilty since, from 1949-1952, they had been instrumental in "violating socialist legality and introducing illegal methods into the work of the security organs."

Siroky also defended the sentences passed on former foreign minister Clementis, who was tried and executed with Slansky, and on Slovak nationalist Husak. He admitted there had been certain miscarriages of justice, but that these were now being investigated, and said that some individuals had already been rehabilitated.

Comment

Although the anti-Yugoslav aspects of the Slansky case were of a secondary nature, Siroky's admission indicates that the Czechs feel that further efforts to remove obstacles to closer relations with Yugoslavia are necessary. Siroky's reference to Beria as the prime cause of the Yugoslav-Cominform split resembles Khrushchev's initial comments in Belgrade in May 1955 which were subsequently termed "insufficient" by the Yugoslavs.

Siroky's statement suggests that the regime apparently intends to leave untouched the major charge made against Slansky in 1952, which implicated the latter as the leader in a Zionist conspiracy to overthrow the "people's democracy."

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